

EXAMINER'S COMMENT

1. The status identifier for Claim 21 was incorrectly designated as “previously presented” in the After Final Amendment filed 12/22/09. The status identifier for Claim 21 should read -- (currently amended)--.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert E. Goozner, #42,593, on 1/7/10.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

4. **Claim 12** has been **canceled**.

5. **Claims 10, 13, 19, 21, and 22** are **amended** as follows:

CLAIM 10. (currently amended) A quick coupling device, comprising:

a tubular body having a connection section arranged to receive in a leaktight manner one end of a duct; and

a retaining member mounted on the body and possessing tabs that are elastically deformable between a first state of gripping an outer bead on the end of the duct, and a second state of releasing the bead,

wherein the retaining member is mounted on the body to turn around a central axis of the body between a free deformation position in which the tabs can deform between the first and second states, and at least one holding position in which the tabs cooperate with a surface that is secured to the body and that holds the tabs in one of the first and second states,

wherein, in the holding position, each tab is in its gripping state[[s]] and is received at least in part in a housing of the body having a surface that opposes deformation of the tab towards its release state, and

wherein, in the holding position, each tab cooperates with a ramp of the body lifting the tab so as to bring it into its release state, wherein the retaining member possesses two holding positions that are angularly offset relative to each other.

CLAIM 13. (currently amended) The device according to claim 10,[[12,]] wherein, in the free deformation position, the retaining member is arranged to be capable of being driven axially by the duct towards a locking position in which each tab in its gripping state is received at least in part in a housing of the body having a surface that opposes deformation of the tab towards its release state.

CLAIM 19. (currently amended) A quick coupling device, comprising:

a tubular body having a connection section arranged to receive in a leaktight manner one end of a duct; and

a retaining member mounted on the body and possessing tabs that are elastically deformable between a first state of gripping an outer bead on the end of the duct, and a second state of releasing the bead,

wherein the retaining member is mounted on the body to turn around a central axis of the body between a free deformation position in which the tabs can deform between the first and second states, and at least one holding position in which the tabs cooperate with a surface that is secured to the body and that holds the tabs in one of the first and second states,

and wherein the device further includes a link section remote from the connection section, and the link section has an end face having an axially extending collar.

21. (currently amended) A quick coupling device, comprising:

a tubular body having a connection section arranged to receive in a leaktight manner one end of a duct; and

a retaining member mounted on the body and possessing tabs that are elastically deformable between a first state of gripping an outer bead on the end of the duct, and a second state of releasing the bead,

wherein the retaining member is mounted on the body to turn around a central axis of the body between a free deformation position in which the tabs can deform between the first and

second states, and at least one holding position in which the tabs cooperate with a surface that is secured to the body and that holds the tabs in one of the first and second states,

and wherein the device further includes a link section remote from the connection section, and the connection section is surmounted by a rim that extends beyond the connection section away from the link section.

22. (currently amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein the rim is integral with the connection section and ~~the~~ possesses an inside diameter of a portion projecting from the connection that is greater than an outside diameter of the outer bead.

CONCLUSION:

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fannie Kee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/F. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
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